

Application Serial No.: 10/529,071

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Van Meir et al. does not teach each and every element of independent claim 1, and therefore fails to support a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a/e). Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the instant rejection be withdrawn at this time. A Notice of Allowance directed to claim 1 is also respectfully requested.

Applicants further submit that claims 3-8, 15, 16 and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Accordingly, the instant 35 U.S.C. §102(a/e) rejection of these claims has also been addressed. Thus, applicants respectfully request that the instant rejection be withdrawn at this time. A Notice of Allowance directed to these claims is also respectfully requested.

DISCUSSION OF NEW CLAIMS

New claims 37-39 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, including particularly at page 6, lines 16-27, and in original claims 1-4. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 37-39 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons stated above. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for new claims 37-39.

Application Serial No.: 10/529,071

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

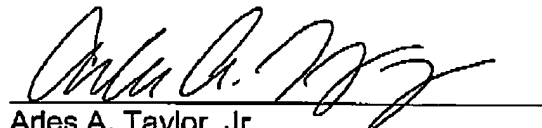
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 09/15/2008

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